

Public Works Committee. During that time, I had the chance to write the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996, to revise the Clean Air Act, and to improve the Endangered Species Act, Superfund, and the Clean Water Act. In each case, I advocated for laws that not only protect the environment but that are flexible, take advantage of market mechanisms, and reflect the unique needs and circumstances of the West.

I was always pleased that I was able to work in a bipartisan manner with my colleagues on the Environment and Public Works Committee. Republicans, Democrats, and Independents all understood that protecting the environment did not have to be a partisan issue, and I was glad that various presidents joined in our efforts. That is why it is so distressing today to see the current administration's policies pursued in such a manner because environmental issues could and should be bipartisan.

Each year, our understanding grows about how important it is to conserve and protect our land and its rich resources. While the current administration's environmental rollbacks are far too numerous to count, it started with attempts to loosen arsenic standards for drinking water and centers today around their total unwillingness to work together on a plan that will first stabilize and then reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Global warming and climate change is the single greatest environmental challenge that will confront current and future generations. We have a moral obligation to address this issue and choosing to ignore this problem is madness and a luxury we do not have the time for. I once again urge my colleagues not to fall for the temptation of the administration's voluntary "technology-only" strategy. That strategy has only increased emissions and the risks associated with global warming.

The negative impacts that have been linked to global warming and climate change are also far too numerous to mention, but I am continually concerned about the impacts that climate change will have on water in Nevada. Most recently, the National Resources Conservation Service recorded that snowpack throughout the Sierra Nevada Mountains is only at 40 to 50 percent or normal. In eastern Nevada, due to decreases in the snowpack, the stream flow for the Humboldt River is expected to only be at 34 percent and the lower Colorado River at 19 percent of its average. A recent study published in *Science* said all but one of the 19 major climate models project that the Southwest is at the beginning of a deepening drought largely due to greenhouse gas concentration increases and global warming.

The challenge of eliminating our Nation's overdependence on oil and other greenhouse gas emitting fossil fuels will be a great test for our country and for the world. I believe that America

can lead the way in developing new technologies to meet and pass this test. We can and must become more energy independent through the rapid development and diversification of clean, alternative, and renewable sources of energy. They will provide a steady, reliable energy supply, bolster our national security, protect the environment, and create new jobs and whole new industries. We must tap into our Nation's spirit of innovation and bring a new environmental ethic to our energy policy.

Every day, not just on Earth Day, we have to work together to protect our environment from threats so our children and our grandchildren and so on can drink clean water, breath clean air, and enjoy the vast open spaces and the natural beauty of Nevada, America, and the world. That much is for certain, and I look forward to bringing that commitment to everything that I and this Senate undertake.

#### TRIBUTE TO JOHN L. KIRKWOOD

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today I honor the distinguished career of John L. Kirkwood and to congratulate him on his upcoming retirement. John Kirkwood is the current president and chief executive officer of the American Lung Association.

Mr. Kirkwood graduated from Northwestern University in Evanston, IL. Since then, his life has been dedicated to improving the health of our country.

Mr. Kirkwood served as executive director of the American Lung Association of Metropolitan Chicago from 1975 to 2001. During his tenure, he was instrumental in organizing the American Lung Association Asthma Clinical Research Network, the International Tuberculosis Foundation, the Illinois Coalition against Tobacco, the Chicago Asthma Consortium and the Combined Health Appeal of Illinois. His efforts have made it possible for more Illinoisans in the Chicago metropolitan area to breathe better today.

Luckily for the rest of the country, Mr. Kirkwood decided to expand his commitment beyond the Chicago area to improving the health of the entire Nation. As president and CEO of the American Lung Association, Mr. Kirkwood has expanded the ALA's commitment to research nationwide, strengthened the organization's advocacy programs, and improved knowledge and information transfer systems to assist patients suffering from lung disease.

As the leader of America's oldest national voluntary health organization, Mr. Kirkwood has shown an exemplary commitment to the health and social well-being of all Americans. Thanks to his work and his heartfelt dedication to the public's health, individuals in my State of Illinois and the Nation as a whole will breathe cleaner air and lead healthier, happier lives. We are fortunate for his years of dedication to the American Lung Association, and his leadership will be deeply missed.

Mr. President, I congratulate Mr. Kirkwood on his many accomplishments throughout a long and successful career. As he concludes this chapter of his professional life, I wish him many more years of happiness and accomplishment.

#### VOTE EXPLANATIONS

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I regret that on April 16, I was unable to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on S. 372, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007. I wish to address this vote, so that the people of the great State of Kansas, who elected me to serve them as U.S. Senator, may know my position.

Regarding vote No. 130, on the motion to invoke cloture on S. 372, I would not have voted to invoke cloture. My vote would not have altered the result of this motion.

Mr. President, I regret that on April 17, I was unable to vote, upon reconsideration, on the motion to invoke cloture on S. 372, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007. I wish to address this vote, so that the people of the great State of Kansas, who elected me to serve them as U.S. Senator, may know my position.

Regarding vote No. 131, on the motion to invoke cloture on S. 372, I would not have voted to invoke cloture. My vote would not have altered the result of this motion.

Mr. President, I regret that on April 18, I was unable to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 3, the Medicare Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Act of 2007. I wish to address this vote, so that the people of the great State of Kansas, who elected me to serve them as U.S. Senator, may know my position.

Regarding vote No. 132, on the motion to invoke cloture on S. 3, I would not have voted to invoke cloture. My vote would not have altered the result of this motion.

Mr. President, I regret that on April 18, I was unable to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 378, the Court Security Improvement Act of 2007. I wish to address this vote, so that the people of the great State of Kansas, who elected me to serve them as U.S. Senator, may know my position.

Regarding vote No. 133, on the motion to invoke cloture on S. 378, I would have voted to invoke cloture. My vote would not have altered the result of this motion.

#### CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION PROGRAM

Mr. WEBB. Mr. President, today I wish to discuss an issue that has held a special place in my life for many years, the preservation of our Nation's civil war battlefields. Our historic battlefields—outdoor classrooms where visitors may walk in the very footsteps of heroes from past generations—are

under threat. More than 200,000 acres of historically significant battlefield land remain unprotected and are threatened by development pressures. That is why I urge my colleagues to fully fund the Civil War Battlefield Protection Program. This arm of the National Park Service is an invaluable tool to preserve our Nation's history.

In 1990, Congress established the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission, a blue-ribbon panel empowered to investigate the status of America's remaining Civil War battlefields. Congress also tasked the Commission with the mission of prioritizing these battlefields according to their historic importance and the threats to their survival. The Commission ultimately looked at the 10,000-plus battles and skirmishes of the Civil War and determined that 384 priority sites should be preserved. The results of the report were released in 1993 and they were not encouraging.

The 1993 Commission report recommended that Congress create a \$10 million-a-year emergency program to save threatened Civil War battlefield land. The result was the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program. To date, the Preservation Program, working with its partners, has saved 14,100 acres of land in 15 States.

The key to the success of the Preservation Program is that it achieves battlefield preservation through collaborative partnerships between State and local governments, the private sector and nonprofit organizations, such as the Civil War Preservation Trust. Matching grants provided by the program protect lands outside of the National Park Service boundaries and do not add to the Park Service's maintenance costs.

But for the Preservation Program and their partners with the Civil War Preservation Trust, we would have lost key sites from such national shrines at Antietam, Chancellorsville, Fredericksburg, Manassas, Harpers Ferry, Bentonville, Mansfield, and Champion Hill. Their names still haunt us to this day. Had the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program not intervened, the sites would have been lost forever to commercial and residential development. Now they have been protected for future generations to enjoy and learn about our Nation's history. They are islands of greenspace in a seemingly endless sea of commercial sprawl.

The need to protect our Nation's battlefields is far too great for any one well-intentioned Federal program. That is why the partnership with the Civil War Preservation Trust is so critical. This visionary preservation group is able to work with other foundations, State and local governments and their membership to match Federal funds by 100 percent. How often can we tout such an achievement with other Federal programs? The trust receives no financial gain from the Preservation Program and, working with their non-Federal partners, has raised more than

\$30 million to secure key battlefield sites in 15 States. They are in this fight for all the right reasons. This partnership truly serves as a model in bringing all stakeholders to the table to tackle pressing national issues.

For me, these hallowed grounds, these living memorials to the 620,000 Americans who sacrificed their lives to fight in the Civil War, have special, personal significance. Ancestors of mine fought on both sides during the war, including William Jewell, who was wounded in the Battle of Cedar Mountain in Culpeper County, VA, wounded again at Antietam and was finally killed in action at Chancellorsville on May 3, 1863. It is not every day you can visit these battlefield sites and have an immediate, direct connection with your ancestors. We must preserve these sites so that future generations might see and touch the very places where so many sacrifices were made, by soldiers and civilians alike, to settle the unresolved issues from the American Revolution of slavery and sovereignty. We are a stronger, more diverse and genuinely free nation because of these sacrifices.

I would remind my colleagues that the Preservation Program has enjoyed bipartisan, bicameral support since its creation. In 2002, program funding was authorized through the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act at the level recommended by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission—\$10 million a year. The clock is ticking against these threatened historical sites given the pace of commercial development. Just last month, the Civil War Preservation Trust released its list of the 10 most threatened battlefield sites. Among them: Gettysburg; Fort Morgan, Alabama; Marietta, Georgia and three sites in the Commonwealth of Virginia. In 5 years there may be little left to protect. That is why I am here today to urge my colleagues to join me in requesting the full, authorized amount for the Preservation Program. These Federal funds will leverage millions more in private and other charitable donations; thereby increasing the trust's ability to preserve more threatened battlefield sites.

When the "Soldiers' National Cemetery" was dedicated at the Gettysburg battlefield in November 1863, President Lincoln spoke eloquently of the imperative to honor those who had given their "last full measure of devotion" 4 months earlier. The Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program allows us to carry on Lincoln's vision. I urge my colleagues to join me in seeking full funding for the program this fiscal year.

#### HONORING GARY J. LANG

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment today to honor the distinguished civil service career of a particularly remarkable senior law enforcement official. Mr. Gary J. Lang recently retired from his

position as chief of staff of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in the Department of Homeland Security and in doing so, this special agent will leave behind a legacy of exceptional accomplishment and dedication to his country.

Over the years, Mr. Lang has successfully handled a series of professional challenges that truly distinguish him as one of our Nation's outstanding leaders. His entry into the Federal service in 1978 as an investigator with the Food and Drug Administration began a tradition in law enforcement to protect the public interest that exists to this day.

From his time at the FDA, through the Defense Investigative Service, and as a special agent with the U.S. Customs Service working in south Florida during an era known for its smuggling, drug trafficking and the related criminal violence, Mr. Lang demonstrated courage, honesty, and leadership in positions of increasing responsibility that have become defining characteristics of his career. He earned the respect of his colleagues and supervisors for his operational and managerial expertise in the field.

The Hill benefited from Mr. Lang's expert Federal law enforcement knowledge during the more than 4 years he spent supporting me through his work on various committees, including serving as special assistant for the Caucus on International Narcotics Control, as well as his time working with staff on the Judiciary and Finance Committees. The positive impact Gary had upon our initiatives through his expertise, dedication and memorable dignity was truly meaningful to me and our work effort.

More recently, in a headquarters management position as deputy executive director of operations/transition teams, Mr. Lang participated at the very center of the decision making that defined the investigative role the DHS would have in its mission to protect the public against acts of terror, and resulted in the creation of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the second largest investigative agency in the Federal Government. And, as a senior executive, Mr. Lang served as assistant director for ICE's Office of Investigations, managing the operational activities of a staff of 7,000 across the Nation and around the world.

Mr. Lang most recently served as the chief of staff at ICE, where he spearheaded the advancement of the Assistant Secretary's mission-critical goals across the full spectrum of the agency's operations and administrative lines of business, through its staff of 16,000. He worked diligently to ensure that ICE maximizes the application of its strategic resources to enforce U.S. trade and immigration laws and to target and neutralize national-level homeland security risks under ICE's legal authorities. Mr. Lang leads by example, by holding himself and others accountable in achieving ICE's highest